List of all Pending Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for computer-assisted deletion of electronic messages, comprising:

searching <u>user entered</u> content <u>and an attachment to</u> an outgoing electronic message for date information;

including an expiration date to be sent in addition to said <u>user entered</u> content <u>and said attachment</u>, said expiration date being related to said date information <u>found</u> in ~~from~~ said <u>user entered</u> content <u>or in said attachment</u> of said <u>outgoing</u> electronic message; and

sending said outgoing electronic message <u>and said attachment</u> and said expiration date to a recipient.

2-3 are

2-3. (Claim ~~6 is~~ canceled.)   *4 5.418*

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, <u>additionally comprising appending the expiration date to said outgoing electronic message and said attachment</u> ~~wherein said expiration date is appended to said electronic message~~.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said expiration date is inserted into said <u>outgoing</u> message.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, additionally comprising said recipient receiving said outgoing message <u>and said attachment</u> and deleting said outgoing message after said expiration date.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, additionally comprising prompting a sender of said outgoing message with said ~~suggested~~ expiration date.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, additionally comprising receiving a confirmation that a sender of said outgoing message accepts said expiration date.

9-13. (Please cancel claims 9-13.)

14. (Currently amended) A system for the computer-assisted deletion of date-sensitive messages in an electronic messaging program, comprising:

an input device that conveys inputs from a user to a processing unit;

an electronic messaging program that runs on said processing unit, said electronic messaging program allowing the user to construct electronic messages based on inputs from said input device; and

an auto-searching module that searches within said electronic message <u>and an attachment to said electronic message</u> for date information, said auto-searching module also suggesting an expiration date of said electronic message based on said date information.

15. (Please cancel claim 15.)

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim <u>14</u> [17], wherein said input device is a keyboard.

17. (Currently amended) A system for the computer-assisted deletion of date-sensitive messages in an electronic messaging program, comprising:

an electronic messaging program that runs on a processing unit, said electronic messaging program receiving electronic messages from a sender; and

an auto-searching module that searches said electronic messages <u>and attachments of said electronic messages</u> for date information, said auto-searching module suggesting an expiration date based on said date information.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said auto-searching module additionally stores a second electronic message if said second electronic message includes an expiration date that has been accepted by the sender of said second electronic message.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said processing unit deletes said electronic message after said expiration date has passed.

20. (Please cancel claim 20)